



APPROVED MINUTES
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
Doubletree Hotel – Opal Room
Boise, Idaho

The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) held its regular, bi-monthly meeting on November 16, 2005 at the Doubletree Hotel, Riverside in the Opal Room. Those present at the meeting included the following:

Members: J. Morgan Evans, Chairman
Gary Grindstaff, Vice-Chairman
Jerry Reid, - Acting Secretary

Members not Present: Tom Johnston

Advisors: Rich Sims, NRCS
Kyle Hawley, IASCD

Advisors not present: Paul McCawley, University of Idaho (U of I)

Others: Jerry Nicolescu, ISCC
Brenda Thomasson, ISCC
Kathy Weaver, ISCC
Christy Mastin, ISCC
Kathie Shea, ISCC
Tony Bennett, ISCC
Biff Burleigh, ISCC
Ken Stinson, Latah
Duane LaFayette, IASCD
Pat McCoy, Capital Press
Debbie Tiede, IDEA
Sarah Braasch, NRCS
Lynn Tominaga, Idaho Water Users
Steve Miller, IASCD Division IV Director
Claude Bruce, IASCD Division III Director
Kent Foster, IASCD
Janet Hohle, SCC

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Governor
Dirk Kempthorne

Commission members
Jerry Reid
Bill Whittom
J. Morgan Evans
Gary Grindstaff
Tom Johnston

Administrator
Jerry Nicolescu

Welcome/Announcements

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

Reid asked if the minutes had been read. He noted that there were a couple of typos, but that those could be easily corrected. Reid moved to approve the minutes of September 19th. Grindstaff seconded and the motion carried. Reid moved to approve the minutes of October 25, 2005. Grindstaff seconded and the motion carried.

Financial Reports

October 2005 General Fund Report

Thomasson presented the August financial report and distributed an updated financial report, current as of October 31, 2005. Thomasson distributed copies of both the September and October reports and explained the new format. She had previously asked Kelly Nielsen to change the format from one page to three pages for ease of readability and more visibility of all PCAs. Nielsen complied with her request beginning in September. Thomasson also reported improvements in the communication between ISDA's fiscal section and the Commission. Nicolescu reported that Tony Voorhees, ISDA Grants Officer, has accepted a new position and will be leaving ISDA by the end of the month. Once ISDA rehires Voorhees' position, Nicolescu and Thomasson will work with that person to ensure that the SCC's grants are properly managed. Reid moved to approve the General Fund Financial Report. Grindstaff seconded and the motion carried.

October 2005 RCRDP Financial Report

Mastin distributed copies of the RCRDP financial report. She explained that November and December are the largest months for payment receipts, particularly December. Reid asked if there were any loans in default. Mastin stated that there are three, two of which will be addressed today, with a request for a payoff on the third loan in default. Grindstaff moved to approve the RCRDP Financial Report. Reid seconded and the motion carried.

Evans questioned if the Commission should write a letter to the Governor's office requesting that new members be appointed, particularly in light of the fact that Mastin has increased participation in the loan program by 70% in the past year. Nicolescu reported that he received a call from Ray Houston of LSO this morning, who voiced his

concern that Commission members had not yet been reappointed. Houston is also going to discuss his concerns with members of JFAC in hopes that JFAC can make some in-roads with the Governor's office in getting Members reappointed. Jim Yost of the Governor's office has taken a list of names to the Governor in hopes of getting someone reappointed. Reid asked who made the recommendations for Commission members. Nicolescu explained that Districts used to make recommendations, but that the process has changed. When the SCC was moved to ISDA eight years ago, the ISDA Director would recommend names to the Governor, and recently, Jim Yost has taken recommendations from the SCC. Nicolescu will draft a letter from the members asking that the Governor appoint or re-appoint Commission members immediately. With the death of Commission Member Bill Whitton on October 26th of this year, it is becoming more difficult for the Commission to have a quorum at meetings.

RCRDP Loan Application Reviews

Aaron and Vicki Hinkleman

Mastin presented a copy of a letter received from Bob Sandlund, NRCS, Grangeville, supporting the purchase of a John Deere 455 drill by Aaron Hinkelman. Hinkleman's loan request had been tabled during the October 25 conference call. Reid still feels that this is a conventional drill and is not certain if the SCC should be loaning money on a drill that is not a direct-seed drill. There needs to be a discussion about potentially changing the policy to allow different types of drills. Nicolescu recommended taking an hour at the January meeting to have this discussion. Reid pointed out that in some cases, it is not just the equipment used to improve conservation, but it is the way that it is used. Reid also stated that individuals with unsigned conservation plans should not be approved for loans. He also feels that there should be a statement that if the individual does not follow a conservation plan, the SCC should immediately call the loan due.

Reid moved that the Commission make a policy that individuals have a signed conservation plan in place before a loan can be approved and that if the conservation plan is not being followed, the Commission has the option to call the loan due. Grindstaff seconded. There was a discussion in which Mastin pointed out that our current policy already states that the individuals do have to have signed conservation plans in place before loans can be approved. There is also a statement that the plan will be followed, but does not indicate a time-frame for follow-up. Reid stated that the only way individuals would be found out of compliance would be if there was a whistleblower or a spot check. Grindstaff stated that he felt that everything that was in the motion was already being implemented, with the exception of follow-up. Nicolescu stated that we could instruct staff to do follow-up. Bennett reported that the staff currently does status reviews, and that follow-up on loans could be put in place as well. Very few individuals will not be in compliance, as long as they follow at least the minimums of the Food Security Act. Grindstaff moved to table this motion until the

January meeting, as he feels that more discussion is needed. Evans seconded. Motion carried with Grindstaff and Evans in the affirmative and Reid opposed. Mastin asked for a decision on the Hinkleman loan. Grindstaff moved to approve the Hinkleman loan. Evans seconded.

Evans asked if this loan had been presented in October. Mastin reported that at the conference call, it was requested that the loan request be tabled until more information could be received on the 455 drill. Reid asked for Stinson's opinion on the 455 Drill. Stinson stated that in his area, the 455 is being used for direct seeding, but only with other implements, not by itself. The Commission has loaned on 455 Drills in the past. Nicolescu pointed out that at the last meeting, the Commission had requested that specific information be provided for approval and that the applicant has provided that information. Bennett offered the use of his staff to follow up as to whether or not the applicant is following his conservation plan. Evans called for the question. Grindstaff voted Aye. Reid – Nay – Evans - Aye. Motion carried. Details of the loan request are listed below:

Signing Parties: Aaron and Vicki Hinkelman		
Loan Amount: \$ 30,000	Term: 7 years	Rate: 4%
Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· ISCC to be secured by an insured 1st R/E mortgage on 80 acres· Value of R/E to be established by an acceptable evaluation source· ISCC to secure 1st lien on equipment to be purchased (UCC-1)· Secured equipment to be insured for life of loan	
Disposition: Approved as Requested		

William and Deanna Curry

Mastin next presented the request of William and Deanna Currey from the Power SCD requesting \$47, 0000 on a 15 year term at five percent interest. The project would replace worn-out sprinkler lines with a new center pivot system. This will significantly reduce energy requirements, lower HP and improve overall efficiency in delivery. Water efficiency will increase from 60% to 85%. Average field slope is 1.5%. Details of the loan request are listed below:

Signing Parties: William and Deanna Curry
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Loan Amount:	\$47,000	Term:	15 Years	Rate:	5 %
Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ISCC to be secured by an insured 2nd R/E mortgage on 160 acres · Value of R/E to be established by an acceptable evaluation source · ISCC to secure 1st lien on equipment to be purchased (UCC-1) · Secured equipment to be insured for life of loan 				
Disposition:	Approved as Recommended by Loan Officer				

Reid moved to approve, Grindstaff seconded. Motion carried.

Leo Shawn Gould

Mastin presented the Gould request for \$80,000 to convert from surface irrigation to center pivot increasing water efficiency from 36% to 85% and reduce soil erosion by 4.94 tons per acre, or 644 tons per year. The average filed slop is 1.2%. This request comes from the Balanced Rock District. Reid moved to approve. Grindstaff seconded. After a brief discussion, as to whether or not the loan was used for operating. Grindstaff moved to amend the motion so that if Gould receives EQIP funds, that those funds be used to repay the SCC loan. Reid seconded, the amendment was approved, and the motion carried.

Signing Parties:	Leo Shawn Gould				
Loan Amount:	\$80,000	Term:	5 Years	Rate:	3 %
Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ISCC to be secured by an insured 2nd R/E mortgage on 80 acres · Value of R/E to be established by an acceptable evaluation source · ISCC to secure 1st lien on equipment to be purchased (UCC-1) · Secured equipment to be insured for life of loan 				
Disposition:	Approved as requested				

Larry and Cynthia Meyer

The loan request of Larry and Cynthia Meyer from the Twin Falls SWCD was considered next. The request is for a \$50,000 loan for a seven year term at four percent interest to convert from surface irrigation to a center pivot system and some solid set hand lines. The project will increase water efficiency from 30% to 85%. The average filed slope is 3%. Reid moved to approve. Grindstaff seconded. During discussion, it was stated that the pivot and pump costs are less than the amount of the loan and there is concern about operating costs again. Reid amended the motion to include repayment of \$22,360 of EQIP funds once the project is completed. Grindstaff seconded. The amendment was approved and the motion carried.

Signing Parties: Larry and Cynthia Meyer					
Loan Amount:	\$50,000	Term:	7 Years	Rate:	4 %
Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· ISCC to secure 1st lien on equipment to be purchased (UCC-1)· (Center Pivot, pump and panels)· Secured equipment to be insured for life of loan				
Disposition:	Approved as Requested				

James Zenner

The next request present was for James Zenner of the Lewis SCD for \$51,000 on a five year term at three percent interest. The funds would be used to purchase a 45 ft. Flexicoil Air Drill 5000 series and a 3850 air cart to convert to a direct seed operation. The average filed slope is 7% and the property farmed impacts three streams, Holes/LongHollow, Lawyers, and Big Canyon. The distance from these streams ranges from .25 miles to approximately one mile. Reid moved to approve the Zenner loan with the condition that he has a signed conservation plan. Grindstaff seconded. Reid stated that he has seen this drill and that it meets all requirements of a no till drill. Motion carried.

Signing Parties: James Zenner		
Loan Amount: \$51,000	Term: 5 Years	Rate: 3 %

Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISCC to be secured by the Direct Seed Drill ○ ISCC to secure 1st lien on equipment to be purchased (UCC-1) ○ Secured equipment to be insured for life of loan
Disposition:	Approved as Requested

Mike and Eileen Chambers

Mastin presented the Chambers' request for an \$84,500 loan to replace above-ground mainline and convert from surface irrigation to a center pivot system. They are also planning water troughs and fencing. Water efficiency will improve from 35% to 85%, and they expect to reduce sediment and bacteria runoff also. The Chambers do have a signed EQIP contract and the Commission would be taking a second on 640 acres and the pivot. Grindstaff moved to deny the chambers loan. Reid seconded. Reid stated that the income does not seem to be stable. Motion carried.

Signing Parties: Mike and Eileen Chambers		
Loan Amount: \$84,500	Term: 10 years	Rate: 4 %
Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISCC to be secured by the pivot system ○ ISCC to secure 1st lien on equipment to be purchased (UCC-1) ○ Secured equipment to be insured for life of loan 	
Disposition:	Denied	

Donna Vaughn

The next loan presented was for Donna Vaughn from the Portneuf SWCD to convert from an inefficient flood irrigation system to a gravity pressurized wheel line system. The average field slope is 3% and the property is less than one mile from Cherry Creek, though this is not a 303(d) listed stream. The water efficiency is estimated to improve to 85%. The request is for \$77,300.00 on a 15 year term at five percent interest. Reid moved to deny the loan request based on an insufficient income level. Grindstaff seconded and the motion carried.

Signing Parties: Donna Vaughn

Loan Amount:	\$77,300	Term:	15 Years	Rate:	5%
Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ISCC to be secured by and insured 1st R/E Mortgage on 403 acres. 				
Disposition:	Denied				

Ellis and Beatrice Gooch

The next request presented was from Ellis and Beatrice Gooch of the Wood River SCD for \$60,000 for 15 years at 5% interest to convert from surface irrigation to center pivot and wheel lines. Grindstaff moved to approve. Reid seconded and the motion carried.

Signing Parties:	Ellis and Beatrice Gooch				
Loan Amount:	\$60,000	Term:	15 Years	Rate:	5 %
Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ISCC to be secured by an insured 2nd R/E mortgage on 120 acres · Value of R/E to be established by an acceptable evaluation source · ISCC to secure 1st lien on equipment to be purchased (UCC-1) · Secured equipment to be insured for life of loan 				
Disposition:	Approved as Requested				

Servicing Actions

Bryan Ravenscroft

Mastin provided the Members with an update on the Bryan Ravenscroft loan. There had been an issue of securing the interest in the property since Bryan's father, Vernon, has passed away since the original loan was approved. If the Executor of the estate signs, the loan can be secured, as the executor has the right to sign the property. Mastin has changed the mortgage to reflect the updates.

Duane Ekins

Mastin distributed a copy of a time-line of the loan history for Duane Ekins and recommended that the loan be written off as a loss. Reid asked if we had exhausted

every possible remedy for collecting on this loan. Mastin stated that she felt virtually all remedies had been exhausted. Grindstaff moved to write this loan off as a loss. Reid seconded and the motion carried.

Steven Leggard

Mastin reported that she had sent two certified letters to Mrs. Leggard to follow up on this loan, as it has been in default since before Mr. Leggard passed away. She hopes to have an answer from Mrs. Leggard next week.

Dave Springer

Mr. Springer is requesting an extension on his loan commitment. He has not started his project, but does expect to this spring. He will be signing an EQIP contract at that time. Grindstaff moved to grant a six month extension. Reid seconded. Motion carried.

Stuart Wengren

Stuart Wengren requested a six month extension. Mastin has a completion letter; she is just awaiting invoices or a decision that Wengren does not want the remaining \$7,000 available on the loan. Grindstaff moved to deny the requested six month extension. Reid seconded and the motion carried.

Dough Ashburn is also requesting a commitment extension. Reid moved to grant a six month extension to Ashburn. Grindstaff seconded and the motion carried.

IDEA Report

Debbie Tiede gave a report on IDEA activities. She reported that they did well on the rifle raffle. Rich Sims won the shotgun and one of the 10-22s, but donated the .22 back for re-sell. They made a profit of roughly \$2900 from the raffle. Tiede also reported that Vickie Lukeheart elected not to run for re-election in her Division and that Diane Miller has been elected as the Director for Division III. Tiede reported that Sheri Iverson, of St. Luke's gave a motivational speech at the IDEA luncheon and that Judi Aitken from PERSI also reported on the state retirement system with very useful information.

WQPA and Conservation Improvement Grants

Burleigh delivered an update on Conservation Improvement grants, presenting four requests for Conservation Improvement Grants. Each one of the grants has an EQIP component and the grants would be used to supplement EQIP funds. Three of the requests also have requested RCRDP loans. Two of the loan requests have been denied, including the loan request of Mike and Eileen Chambers, and that of Donna Vaughn. Reid moved to table the grant request of Thomas Palmer until the loan

request has been reviewed. Grindstaff seconded. Motion carried. Grindstaff moved to deny the grant requests of Chambers and Vaughn. Reid seconded. Motion carried. Burleigh asked for clarification on the denials of the grants. Reid stated that the Commission felt the projects could not be implemented financially without the RCRDP Loans.

Burleigh presented the grant request of Ryan Ward. Mr. Ward does have EQIP funds committed. Part of the grant will be used to supplement EQIP funds to meet ISDA's beef AFTO cattle requirements. The second portion is to install a 50HP electric pump to replace a gas powered pump. The request is for \$10,000. Grindstaff asked what the conservation component of the grant is. Burleigh stated that there is a conservation plan in place. The grant would enhance the operation, conserving fuel. Grindstaff moved to approve. Reid seconded. Reid asked if Ward has the proper water rights for the well. Mastin stated that she believes that Ward does have the proper water rights, as she had talked to him during a trip to Malad. The members asked if this was a commercial or domestic well. Grindstaff amended his motion to ensure that the applicant has the proper water rights and that this is a stock well, not a domestic well. Reid seconded the amendment. The amendment was approved and the motion carried.

Burleigh distributed a project proposal summary and gave a brief history of the WQPA priority list. Ried moved to approve the North Idaho AFP Implementation Project – Phase II. Grindstaff seconded and the motion carried. Grindstaff moved to approve the Cottonwood Watershed TMDL Implementation Plan Phase 2. Reid seconded and the motion carried. Reid asked how many acres were involved in the Jump Creek, Succor Creek TMDL implementation project. LaFayette provided an explanation of the tiers involved in this project and explained that both phases are on 303(d) listed streams. Reid moved to approve this project. Grindstaff seconded and the motion carried.

SRF Program

Lynn Tominaga reported on the progress of the Lindsay Lateral Project. He reported that for SRF, they are ranked 29th out of 34 projects. DEQ has stated that they expect to have more than \$1,000,000 left after other projects are completed. Lindsay Lateral is in the process of implementing a local improvement district that will be run by the city of Boise. Tominaga is requesting information on the interest rate the Commission would charge if the project is funded. He is requesting a three percent interest rate on these funds, allowing the Commission to collect a one percent administrative fee. If Tominaga does not receive funding through SRF, he plans on approaching the state Legislature to request changing the rules on the SRF program to allow more for nonpoint source pollution concerns. Reid asked for a refresher on the cost of the loan. Tominaga reported the loan request is for \$1.2 million. They are requesting this because of the problems with flood irrigation. They feel that a pressurized system will alleviate many of these concerns. Evans stated that he does not feel the SCC can set a rate today, as

more information would be needed as to the actual amount of the loan and the numbers of participants.

Evans thanked Tominaga for his presentation.

NRCS Report

Sims distributed copies of his report and included a handout which identified training needs of Commission, IASCD and NRCS employees. This will also include District employees. Sims explained the background and factors leading up to the current engineering backlog. NRCS has 12 new Soil Conservation Technicians that have less than two years experience. It does take time to get new employees up to speed. Sims tried to balance the amount of engineering assistance hired in relation to the amount of soil conservationists hired.

In addition, Sims reported on a highlight of the EQIP program, the WHIP program, WRP program, and CSP program. He highlighted future development and complexity of Watershed rapid assessment, which can be used as a plan for TMDL implementation. There will also be development of a long range strategy to provide technical assistance to address resource concerns associated with Idaho's rangeland resources. This will be a slow shift, over approximately the next three years.

Finally, Sims reported on the steps that will be taken when he receives a comment of complaint from District Supervisors regarding NRCS staff. Sims does not get involved with the complaint, but gives it to the individual's supervisor. The employee has an appeal right, which goes to Sims. If he involves himself in the beginning, then the appeal goes to the national level, rather than the State level. Reid asked the status of the D.C. hire in Moscow. There is an acting DC in place currently. If someone was hired immediately, it will be about three months before someone can be put in place. Malad and Teton also have vacancies in their DC positions.

Stinson asked if the Conservation Partnership Committee will have the opportunity to discuss conservation partnership structures. Evans stated that this needs to be explored with the Association and discussed with the Commission. There have been discussions as to who will be on this committee and what authority it will have.

Carbon Sequestration Report and TMDL Update

Bennett gave an update on his staff's activities in relationship to TMDLS and distributed a copy of the ag component of TMDL Watershed Implementation Plans. He also reported that Justin Krajewski, Range/Riparian Specialist, has been working with a small team to do complete riparian assessments and riparian analysis work. His staff has been working with ISDA's staff on groundwater projects and is developing a workload analysis for groundwater improvements. Bennett also reported on Carbon Sequestration Activities. The Commission has become an affiliate member of the Carbon Offset Committee. The Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee has held two meetings and they are working out details of membership and other issues. Bennett requested that

someone from the Commission work closely with him to help move the Carbon Sequestration effort forward and asked that a member attend some of the meetings with him. Evans asked at which meetings Bennett needed representation. He stated that he would try to make the meeting to be held in Idaho Falls. Weaver stated that the Carbon Sequestration efforts might help Districts with their Conservation District Tree Sales. Nicolescu stated that Biofuels and carbon sequestration is a major topic of NACD and that we need to take the lead on this. There is a gentleman for the National Resources Defense Council who could be a valuable resource in leading this effort. Bahr stated that some tree plantations have been put in place in the hopes of getting some carbon credits. In Montana, RC and Ds are leading the carbon sequestration effort.

RCRDP Loan Software Update

Mastin reported that all the loan data has been transferred into the new system, but that not all of it is correct. It has been difficult to convert the old loan data to the new system. Loans entered into the new system are working correctly. The conversion issue has caused some problems with amortization rates and she is working on adjusting those so that all will be correct. Payment letters in the new system are available, but don't work if the information is incorrect. Sometimes the amortization payment has been incorrect as well. The old system is more convenient to send out receipts and reminders and she is still working on adapting the receipt system in the new program. Evans voiced his frustration that the system is still not working properly. He stated that the new system needs to be up and running as soon as possible. Grindstaff stated that this is typical of most software programs, that none of them fit your specific needs, and that they all need to be tweaked. Evans stated that he expected the software implementation to be completed before the legislature arrives.

SCC All Personnel Meeting

Nicolescu reported that the SCC will be holding an all personnel meeting November 29 – December 2 and will encompass large amounts of training. An all personnel meeting will be held approximately every six months. Nicolescu stated that the Commission will be looking at ways to plan for future leadership as retirements occur during the next few years. He stated that Thomasson is working on developing a mentoring program as part of her Certified Public Manager training.

Quickbooks Accounting Security

Nicolescu distributed a copy of Shea's research on increased security options for Quickbooks security. All members felt it was important that we keep the security in place and that the public information still be available. This system provides access, while protecting confidential information.

IASCD Report

Hawley thanked everyone for attending the Conference and asked how conference went. He stated that he was impressed with the quality of the presentations, noting the NRCS presentation in particular. Hawley also expressed how pleased he was that partnership aspects of the conference were emphasized. Grindstaff requested information on the legislative liaison position voted on by the Association yesterday. Kevin Koester made a presentation to the public outreach committee to hire a legislative liaison. Koester's proposal was to allow up to \$4,000 to hire a legislative liaison. During this morning's meeting, the Association voted to "Use the legislative liaison proposal to increase the Idaho Legislators' awareness of SCDs. Therefore the Board of Directors requests the assistance of the Public Outreach Committee to achieve this goal. The Committees' recommendations will be considered by the Board of Directors at their January meeting. It is important that the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts not be perceived as a lobby organization."

Hawley apologized for the confusion during Tuesday's business meeting. Evans asked if attendance at this year's conference was down from last year. Foster reported that there were more persons at Tuesday's banquet. Weaver stated that she had heard that most felt the proposal of a legislative liaison was a good idea, but the manner in which had been presented was of concern. Nicolescu stated that he felt Kent Foster has a tremendous amount of respect and is concerned that by pulling him out the forefront, some of the respect could be lost. Grindstaff asked if the Resolution for an MOA with County Commissioners had passed. Hawley stated that it did not pass. He voiced his frustration with the procedures that happened during the business meeting and asked the Commission for suggestions on how to make the process run more smoothly.

Grindstaff pointed out that individual Districts have the ability to enter into MOAs with County Commissioners. Miller stated that there had not been a representative from the District that brought the resolution forth, which is why the resolutions for the MOA did not pass. The resolution should have been marked as no action rather than stating that it was held in Committee. All resolutions normally come before the full body. Emergency resolutions take a two thirds majority to bring the resolution to the floor. Hawley stated that the problem with allowing a committee to have too much power is that without a quorum, the resolution could stay in committee. Hawley asked that this body investigate the possibility of the SCC assisting with an educational liaison type position, rather than a lobbying position.

For Districts who fail to submit their plans for using excess funds, there is a process that a letter is sent to the District asking for revision, but it is unclear as to who should send that letter. A policy discussion needs to occur in January to resolve some of these issues. The leadership of the Commission and the Association need to meet to finalize some of the joint processes being developed.

Conservation District Business Plan Review

Nicolescu asked how many Directors were attending the National meeting in Houston. Hawley reported that tentatively, all six Directors are planning on attending. Nicolescu asked about the status of Conservation District Business Plans. Hawley reported that some were passed, some were passed tentatively, and one was rejected outright. Miller states that the form needs to be reviewed to ensure that all Districts understand the process. Miller visited with the District whose plan was rejected and felt that they simply didn't understand they were not in compliance.

SCC/OSC/IASCD MOA Review

Janet Hohle brought forth a draft Memorandum of Agreement between the SCC, the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Governor's Office of Species Conservation. Hohle reviewed the draft, pointing out the primary duties of each entity, beginning with the Commission. She provided background information on her research. The idea for this MOA originated with the Association. Hohle stated that OSC has reviewed an earlier version of the draft that did not include the Association. Hohle also outlined the responsibilities of the OSC in the draft MOA. OSC also functions as the ombudsmen for citizens to voice their concerns regarding the endangered species act. The MOA also reviews the functions of each entity in relationship to the other and addresses communication issues. The MOA concludes with standard language regarding termination of the agreement and hold-harmless clauses. This agreement has been reviewed by OSC's legal counsel, prior to the addition of IASCD to the draft Agreement. The SCC will also be looking at entering into a similar agreement with DEQ.

IDEA Support Request

Nicolescu presented an invoice from IDEA for \$2300.00 for support to their organization. The SCC will pay this invoice.

Future Commission Meeting Dates

Dates for future Commission meetings: January meeting will be afternoon of the 10th and all day the 11th. March 22, May 17, July 19 and 20, September 20, and November 12, 2006. The date of the Western Regional Meeting was also discussed. Our budget presentation this year will be sometime the first two weeks of February. The NACD Annual meeting is January 29- February 2, in Houston. Tentatively, the SCC will authorize two individuals to attend the Conference, either two members, or one staff person and one Commission member.

Executive Session

Reid moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 to discuss legal and personnel matters. Grindstaff seconded. Roll Call Vote: Reid – Aye; Grindstaff – Aye; Evans – Aye. Motion carried. Entered Executive Session at 2:30 p.m.

Evans declared the Commission out of Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. Evans directed Nicolescu to ensure that the loan program software is up and running and is 100% operational no later than January 17th, including providing training to all required staff, having all updates performed on the new computer system and having the old system completely replaced and no longer used. Nicolescu assured the members that this would occur, even if it means having to hire an outside programmer to complete the process, or temporarily shifting all of Ambrose's other duties until the implementation is completed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Thomasson
Management Assistant